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Oct. 26, 1934

5:15 p. m.

Super

Se abre la sesion a las 5:15 p. m., bajo la presidencia del Presidente, Honorable Claro M. Recto.

EL PRESIDENTE. Léase la lista de los delegados.

MR. GRAFILO. I move that the reading of the list be dispensed of .

EL PRESIDENTE. Hay alguna objeción (Silencio) La mesa no oye ninguna. Se dispensa la electura de la lista. Hay quorum. Lease el acta.

APROBACION DEL ACTA

MR. GRAFILO. I also move that the reading of the minutes be dispensed and that the same be approved.

EL PRESIDENTE. Hay alguna objecion? (Sielencio) La Mesa no oye ninguna. Aprobada.

PETICIONES

EL SECRETARIO; Leyendo:

SR. ALTAVAS. Señor Presidente, referente a la discusion, el siguiente orador por el lado de los que favorecen esta proposicion, presento al delegado Sr. Grafilo para hacer suso de la palabra.

SPEECH BY DELEGADO GRAFILO

MR. GRAFILO. Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Convention: One of the propositions in our constitution--making that all tasx our brains, thrill our hearts, and demand our foresight and vision in order to arrive at a blissful conclusion which will be the genuine reflection of our national oriental tradition is the present proposition now under consideration--the suffrage for women. Reasons for and against the proposition are not wanting nor arguments pro and con lacking.

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The distinguished gentleman that preceded me in this debate have ably presented their aids of the proposition clearly and lo logically. Arguments in Committee hearings by both men and wo women coming fromo our intellectual aristocracy, published and well commented by the fourth state have aided in the illumination of this now transcnedental question. Personally, I hold wished to remain silend and noncommittal, but Mr. President, when I think of the duties reposed on me as a member of this pugust and sovereign body, and when I think of our responsibility in the discharge of this duty before our people and posterity, I could not help but rise and voice my opposition against the granting of suffrage to women, not for any selfish motive nor for fear of competition, not because I am a women-hater and the like; but folowing the dictates of a conscience clear for home tranquility, social stability and national economy, and being a lover of women and everything that is womanly beatufiful, that I have now ventured to speak in favor of the proposition under discussion against women's political emancipation.

Mr. President, the discussion of the proposit on brings to our minds, first and foremost, the name of a woman. Yes, our women, our dear, honored and adored Filipino women. I see them clearly in my vision. There is not in this earth a lovelie one; there is not in the Oriental skies a more precious gem, than our modest maiden, clothed in malayan-balintawak chastity, the reasur d and prized Maria Clara of the masuculine Filipino heart. How many of a filipino Romeo with throbbing hearst are dreaming to woo and win her! so our women know that men forget the flood, braved the tempest, crossed mountains and seas unmindful of dangers and darkness of the night just to see her, her her sweet melodious voice, and drink from a blissful cup

the pefumed fragrance of her similes? Yes, any and most of them know, as evidenced bytheir responses of eternal love, sanctigie by voeus and pledged to be with him forever body and soul. When their mutual and true affections are cystallized in consu matumest we see a beautiful panorama which we call Filipino home. Yes, the home., the true Filipino home, Be it in the palatial ones in the cities of the humble nipa or banboo shacks of the towns or remote barrios, it reamains a Filipino hom and there she is placed at the altar of a husbands' heart. loved and adord, enshrined, enthroned. The man goes to the field and the open toiling under the h at of the burning tropical sum, bathing under the torrential rain clearing valleys, the primeval forests and mountains, and transforming them into fruitful gramaries and beautiful gardeen in order to privde comforets and luxuries to his only star and inspirator, she the mistress of the home.

Mr. President, and gentlemen of the convention, I have described to you the esteem of men to our women and pictured to you the Filipino home together withits components which for conturies we have implanted and enshrined, because it is the Philippine Womanhood that is now being attacked and challenged; and it is the the tranquility of the home that is now being assailed and undermined by this invadin catastrophe tempest and destructive flood called the "woman-suffrage." The fdundation of our family and consequently our national edifice may be endagered. Its destructive effects upon our women, home and nation will be worst than the evil offects of plague, reds or the bolsheviks. Filipino women-loving and home-loving beware, steadfast and be brave. Oh! heavenly Father, please enlighten our women so that they may see the evils of bkk bathing in the muddy waters of politics so that

seeing it they may cry adhore goint into it; and strenghen our men, especially the members of the Constitutional Asembly so that they can protect our women, home and nation against the dangers ~~XX~~ havoc of woman's political ~~XXX~~ emancipation!

Mr. President, others may claim that I am not arguing but jumping at conclusions, so I shall now discuss the General effects of woman suffrage.

If woman is granted the right of suffrage, the general effect is the experience that we have seen in the arena of politics. Like the men, she will go out ~~XX~~ campaigning and electioneering, for days, weeks and months. It being a contest between candidates for parties "amor prigio" is not absent. When "amor propio" is in, everything is wagered and risked---wealth, health, time, etc., in order to make the chosen candidate win. Our women have the same "amor pri pio" as if not more than our men. Shall we put at stake everything including our Philippine Womahood, home, nation and future just to take the experimentation of grating our women the right to vote?

Campaigning and electioneering as experience have taught us in going to the public with the masses. To me, when it affects our women it is vulgarity, clear and simple; and vulgarity is cheapness. Mr. President, I hold our women so dear and precious that I do not want them to be vulgar and cheap.

But let us return back to the prime root of our national existence--the family and the home. When the woman, the mother is out campaigning and electioneering, who will take care of the home and the babies?

The woman suffragists may answer me that their political duties is not incompatible with their duties at home. They may add by citing woman sovereign of world renown, like Cathe-

the Great, Queen Elizabeth, and many others. They may also say, as was said by a distinguished, fair lady before the committee hearing that well trained nurses will be left at home to care for the babies. Apparently and the answers and citations are convincing but should we analyze them carefully the effect are horrible and adhorring.

It is true that there are women who have handled the throne efficiently. But it is also true and man can not deny the facts that those women sovereign controlled the thorne because, either the male sovereign was an idiot or no royal one was available. Besides they either have no families to care, or if there were any, those families were cared and controlled directly by the government--the monarchical states. But is your country today, and in years to come, under the democratic form of government that we cherish, who can tell us that all men are, and will be idiots that none or no group men will be available to run the affairs of the state such that we need women in their palces? Have women lost faith and confidence on the ability of the men to run the affairs of the State? Moreover, who is the state that will take care of the private home and the babies in the absence of the mother?

Analyzing the contention that well-trained nurses can be emplyed to take care of the home and children, I will just answer by this question. How many of our Filipino families can afford to emply well-trained nurses, to take the places of the wives who may go out campaigning and electioneering? And more so, we who have grown up under the tender care of a mother, we who have grown the warm affection of a maternal affection who can point to us with precision, that a nurse, however well-trained she may be, can take the place of the tender caress and motherly affection that a real and genuine

2035

mother does to the child? Let the throbbing of our hearts answer. Shall we barter the home for the woman's vote? Shall we exchange the care of children, the hope of our Fatherland, for a woman's public office? What reason is there for our women entering politic? So is it not enough that they are prone to abadon the chiodren in the House?

Mr. Speaker, this makes me imagine of a certain publication in the future whenone afternoon a boy briging with him some newspapers in his hand will be crying "Extra, extra, extra--our President Has deleivered a Baby Boy--the blasphemy has been augmented"--and imagine that a big surprise they found out that the president was unmarried and they could not locate the father! Maybe others may claim that this will not happen, but they shall agree with me that this is not improbable neither is it imposible. The granting to the women the right to vote also curries wit it either of the two consequential resutls: (1) That the either follows her own convictions and goes separately and against that of her husband or father or (2) that she follows that of the husband or the father which is the more logical one.

Taking the first alternative that of fol owing her will against that of her husband or father is pricking our paternal tradition if not vilating the sanctified vows of being with her husband body and sould which means anything.

Taking the other alternative that of following the will of the husband or the father as is the logical and consequence of our paternal tradition, the woman suffrage becomes superlous and unnecessary. It becomes a mere duplication, if not a multiplication, of time, energy and money.

Tody under the present system the Government spends approximately ₱1,500,000 in every election. Should we enfranchise the women, then expenses of the Government will be doubled that sum because we shall increase the number of pre-

cincts, the number of election inspectors, and poll clerks, we shall increase the number of government employees to supervise the election. Besides the increase of expenses on the part of the Government, there goes with it the duplication in expenses for the candidates running for offices because more banquets will have to be held, and cigars and cigarrettes will have to be doubled. Should we do this without a positive result in view, I consider it an economic suicide.

The gentleman from Camarines (Mr. Vinzons) in delivering speech in favor of suffrage last night has mentioned women suffrage movements in other countries. They were convincing but we must find out, Mr. President, from what backgrounds did he stand and whereon he speaks, and on pondering over the topic last night I found out that the gentleman from Camarines Norte has found his background in Occidental countries. Mr. President, if I were an American, if I were an European--a dille man--I would not hesitate to give my vote in favor of woman suffrage. But being one extremely in the East, being an Oriental whose traditions we must follow, I register my vote against granting suffrage to our women.

Has there been Mr. President, a general clamor of our people that our women be given the right to vote? Do we have in our possessions resolutions or petitions signed by municipal and provincial corporations to that effect? My answer, Mr. President, is "No." On the contrary, I have in my possession resolutions of municipal government of my province protesting against granting suffrage to women and I have also in my possession letters signed by respectable leaders of my province urging against women suffrage.

The gentleman from Camariens Norte as his last point mentioned the process of expediency. He has gone to the extent of even citing the provisions of the Tydings-McDuffie law w

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which requires the approval of our people in plebiscite of the Constitutional that we shall make. To what extent, I agree with him, Mr. President, that for the purpose of expediency so that the constitution that we shall draft shall receive the sanction and approval in a plebiscite by our people, I register my protest against the granting of suffrage to women because should we incorporate in our drafts of our constitution the grant of suffrage to our women, the danger may come, Mr. President, that when that constituti n is submitted to the people, who is not responsive to that issue, the people, in a plebiscite may reject our constitution, and it means delay in the beginning of our commonwealth government.

Mr. President, to preserve national tradition, in the name of our homes and our posterity, in the preservations and care of our children, in the simplification of our government and its economy, I voice and register my vote in favor of the proposition, against the grating of our women the right tovote.

MR. BOCAR. Mr. President, will the gentleman yeild?

THE PRESIDENT. The gentleman may yield, if he so desires.

MR. GRAFILO. Willijgly.

MR. BOCAR. Does the gentleman from Sorsogon believe that in point of qualification, education, training and background, the Philippine Women were qualified to exercise the right of suffrage?

MR. GRAFILO. Some of them, but not most of them. And there are women qualified to vote, who registered their opposition in exercsing that function. I have in my hand, Mr. President, letters singed by women wualified to vote, protesting against the granting of woman suffrage.

MR. BOCAR. Generally speaking, what is the opinion of the gentleman about the capacity of our women to vote?

MR. GRAFILO. My personal opinion is that some of them are just as qualified as men, but mypersonal opinion is that many of them do not like to vote, as demonstrated by their presence in the several nights that we have debated on this question, and that only a handful for are interested.

MR. BOCAR. You have brought out, in your speech, points to the effect that if women are granted suffrage, it would lead to the abandonment of their homes and bad effects would follow to the home. You have said that.

MR. GRAVILO. No other consequence will follow.

MR. BOCAR. Is the gentleman from Sorsogon aware that at present there are thousands of our women who, by business, by profession, by employment like teachers, employees, professions or professionals, have to go out of their homes every day in attendance as an consequent of their occupation as teachers? Are you aware of that?

MR. GRAFILO. They do not constitute two percent of our female inhabitants, and even so, going to their schools and to their business is very different from going but campaigning and electioneering.

SR. ALTAVAS. Se. Presidente, el tiempo del orador ha expirado.

MR. GRAFILO. Mr. President, I would just like to honor my friend, Mr. Salumbides.

MR. BUSLON. Mr. President, I requestthat the gentleman be given five minutes more.

SR. ABELLA. Sr. Presidente, concedo varios miputos al Delegado por Negos Occident, Sr. Locsin.

MR. SALUMBIDES. Mr. President, may I ask the delegate for Sorsogon some questions out of the ten or five minutes that shall be given to me--because I shall speak also on

this subject--and that I be allowed to give ti to Mr Grafilo so that ^ can only ask two questions.

EL PRESIDENTE. El Delegado por Camarines Sur no tiene el control del tiempo de los que estan en favor del proyecto de resolucion. Tiene la palabra el Delegado por Negros Occidental.

DISCURSO DEL SR. LOCSIN

SR. LOCSIN. Señor Presidente y Caballeros de la Convencion: Me levanto, no en Interes de la mujer que por su gracia y por los encantos de su belleza con retoques de colorines, llena de fragrancias artificiales la sociedad frivola y galante...no. Al solicitar hoy por breves momentos los favores de vuestra atencion. Lo hago para sumarme a un empeño de dignificacion politica de la mujer Filipina, la Tandang Sora de los rebeldias redentoras y la Teodora Alonso de las formas i nos ciudadanas hogareñas, "sa bahay na ating kinamutia" que diria la madre excelsa en carta al hijo ausente.

Si Ud en las justas culturales,ya no quedan honres exclusivos para el hombre; si en el campo de las catividades por la vida, se resiente el hombr de la agresiva competencia de la mujr de la mujer; y si en la hora de las inmolaciones por la patria, la mujer es tan expontanea en el ofrecimeinto y tan heroica enla accion como el hombre... que nos detiene hoy para concederla el ejercicio de uno de los atributos del ciudadano libre en una democracia?

Impugnadores del sufragio femenino expresaron sus razones en un vano intento de disfrazar lo que para nosotros es un simple resabio de una pagania, que, en determinados momentos de la vida del hombre, se reactiva por atavismo, para determinar la supremacia de sus instintos

de animal sobre los mandatos de la justicia y los consejos de la razon. Entonces triunfa su egoismo, y no se recata en revelarse el macho que se abrogo desde tiempo inmemorail, toda la fuerza del poder para defender los ultimos reductin de su mentida superioridad.

Se quire exigir un imposible, cuando se pide que todas las mujeres reaccionen favorabelmente por el sufragio. Lo natural es que no haya unanimisda entre ellas en una cuestion tan endente y de actualidad. Ha hay acaso se entre nosotros los hombre? Aquellos que no quieren el sufragio, engrosaran ese por ciento grande ed electores pasivos, no bajando de sus casas en el dia de las elecciones. Pero, aquellas otras que constituyen legion, que de una manera directa y efectiva, quieren influir en la marcha de los asuntos publicos, por que negarlas la opurtunidad que piden? ...Esta nacin es de todos los filipinos, hombres y mujeres, unidos bajo una responsabilidad comun. Es nada mas que justo, que se haga militante esa responsabilidad de todas las mujeres filipinas, mediante el ejercicio del sufragio! Sin esto, no podemos legitijar la expresion constitucional de que todos los poderes emanan del pueblo. Si se ha de negar el voto a la mujere, entonces diriamos, para frasando a la Campoamor, que para la mujere Filipina y para los filipinos que estiman el principio democratico como obligatorio, Filipinas, constituira una Republica de privilegio masculino.

Un verdadero castillo de naipes se ha querido construir conlas razones sentimentales aqui expuestas en contra del voto para la mujer filipina. Y como siempre, hemos oido al engreido varon apostrofar diciendo, que, por el propio bien de las mujer filipina, debe negersela el voto.

Se señalo el ejercicio del su ragio por la mujer como razon de discordia conyugal que causaria la perturbacion de los hogares, donde hasta el presente, arrullada por el cariño, es reina y señora la mujer filipina. Se repit on con insistencia, dramatizandola, que la politico es una actividad sucia, donde el salivazo no respeta prestigios y sexos...Y , por que empeñarse en hacer a la mujer actriz de la politica?...No consigue acaso del hombre todo lo que desea?...Por que concederia el voto, con el consiguiente sumento el los presupuestos de una eleccion, dinero ddicional que con mas urgencia lo reclaman perentorias necesidades publicas imperativas de una justicia social?

Cuando pienso en la naturaleza pueril de todas estas a egaciones, me sorprende como mentalidades tan ponderadas y excelsas, las expongan aqui para legitijar su oposicion el sufragio femenino. Señor Presidente, cuando de la mujer, se trata, precisa hacer una distincion entre la mujer que Eva perdiony la mujer que maria redimio.Aquella, carne de liviandades, que dechoja su juventud trasnochando, y pone precio a sus caricias, no es puntal del hogar y de la familia y podemos decir de ella, que ya no hay lodo de la politica que al mancharla, la rebaje mas en la estimacion popular, depues de que nuestra impiedosa acometividad de varon, haya roto para siempre la gracia del cristal de su virginidad...Pero la ultima,que es verbo de amor casto y sereno en la vida, flor de recato y honestidad, siempre sera la sacerdotisa de todos los ritos familiares dentro y vuera delhogar. Por donde vaya , hacia sentir su influencia dignificadora y con sus encantos de doncilla y de madre,desarmaria a la maledicencia mas soez. La mujer que maria redimio, da alegria al campo en la epoca de siega; encantos a la dura labor del taller; esperanza

de vida a los enfermos de los hospitales y a los heridos que al cuerso llenan de gloria los campos de batalla... es la sampaguita perfumada de virtud en nuestros sersos y fiestas; es la educadora llena de ciencia y de pasiencia en nuestras escuelas; es la mujr que con el niño pegado a los pechos trugentos---que son manantial de vida- se dignifica como la gracia inmortal que compendia todas la promesas del porvenir,...La mujer que Maria redimio, dara nuevas modalidades a la politica....Para esta clase de mueres, yo reclamo el vote y estad seguros que, representan una valiosa aprotacion al cuerpo politico de la nacion en este hora en que la magnitud de la otra de edificacion de su porvenir de libertad, ha de requerir de todos los filipinos, la plenitud de sus servicios patrioticos.

Se monta a la institucion de la familia, para negar a uno de sus mas recios sostenes, la mujer, el voto que es instrumento ecencial en toda domocracia, para la seleccion de los oficiales que han de dirigir los destinos de todos los valores de la nacion.

Se quiere con el divorcio asaltar el ultimo reducto misinal de corazon de la mujer..Pero se la niega intervencion y accesc en el poder, para defender con armas igules a las del hombre, los fueros de su amor.

Consigue la mujer filipina, no ya odo lo que desea, sino siquiera buena parte de lo que ella se merece?... Los enem gos del sufragio femenino, queiren economizar hasta el ultimo centimo de los fondos pulbicos, para facilitar la matrializacion de medidas de beneficencia social, la promulgacion de las cuales es de urgente necesidad. Esta es una confesion de culpabilidad de parte, de que muchas cosas que son caras para el corazon de la mujer, fueron dejadas de la mano de Dios.

I 2043

La instruccion de sus hijos es una preocupacion que ha adquiride acarta de permanencia en su vida...Un govierno consegrado por los sufragios de los hombre, exclusivamente, fallo en resolber la instruccion gratuita de sus hijos. La excesiva mortalidad y morbilidad entre los frutos de sus entrañas, llenan de congojas su ya misera existencia...Un govierno consagrado por los sufragios de los hombres exclusivamente, fallo asimismo en organizar la amplia y efectiva asistencia social. La falta de buenas viviendas, de un jornal adecuado prara sostener una vida decorosa y decente, de una politica de fomento y multiplicacion del llamdo patrimonio familiar, de pension pro- y postnatal a las abreras, el seguro de la maternidad, etc. tambien señalan los dvidos de un govierno consegrado por los sufragios de los hombre, exclusivamente.

Se amarbola la bandera de la economia para negar la franquicia del voto a la mujer filipina, despierta a inteligente, que ha de dar nuevos valores a la democracia y a las intituciones de nuestro govierno, pero con indiferencia estamos viendo como se esta aumentando el cuerpo electoral del pais son analfabetos y con electores muertos y fabricados.

A veces me pregunto, si los fondos publicos constituyen un patrimonia exclusivo de la mitad masculina de nuestra poblacion, que para prestigiar a la democrqcia, vigorizandola conla apertacion de la mujer, tenemos que retatear hasta el ultimo centimo en interes de la economica.

Señor Presidente y Caballeros de la Convencion: hay motivos para sentirnos altamente complacidos, perque en virtud de nuestra emancipacion politica, estamos en condiciones de dar una recia estructuracion y alcances ilimitados a la democracia filipina. La atencion del mundo esta hoy enfocada en esta rincon del Estremo Oriente, perque

E 2044

siempre despieren interes el advenimiento á la vida de una nueva republica con ideales elevados de paz y pregreso. Es imperativa la concesion del voto a la mujer filipina, para que la humanidad que nos observa sepa que al movimiento liberal que realizo las conquistas conemporaneas en el ordenpolitico y social, recibio de nosotros nuevos y positivos impulsos.En la hora de la gloria, cuando los solarinos hexaldicos anuncia al mundo la feliz realidad de la republica Filipinos, que al pie de su enseña tricolor, esten todos los filipinno, hombres y mujeres, fortamente unidos y llenos de fe en el porvenir. Hay que hacer solidaria a la mujer filipina en esta obra de responsabilidad, Concediendola beligerancia dentro de la organizacion politica de la nacion, para que se identifique con el empeño constructvo por un porvenir de estabilidad y de progreso en un regimen de libertad. Fernando de los Rios cincelo elpensamiento, de que en una democracia, la obediencia es una necesidad. Es imperativo por tanto, incorporar á la mujer filipina por medio del voto, al cuerpo de nuestra democracia, si queremos retener su obediencia a los pronunciamenitos de las mayorias.

La constitucion que estamos formulando, se distinguira como la sintesis del empeño comun por puntualizar los principios fundamentales necesarios para el desenvolviniente del ciudadano y de la heredad y la creacion de aquellas agencias del poder para la ordenacion de la vida. Que la misma sea una acarto de redencionsocial y politica para todos os filipinos, por ser la obra de los representantes del pueblo. Y me empañare dentro de mis habilidades que asi resulte, para que despues de la delicada y d dificil tarea, de vuelta al seno del propio hogar, satisfecho del deber cumplido, orgulloso y sonriente, pueda ofre-

L 2045

cerla bajo una sinfonia de besos, a la hija llena de encantos, a la esposa querida y a la madre venerada, las tres gracias que inspiran mis empeños señores por quna filipinas libre y feliz, patria de filipinos libres y felices!....

He dicho.

SR. ALTAVAS. Señor Presidente.

SR. PRESIDENTE. Señor Delegadol

SR. ALTAVAS. Presentamos como orador delegado afirmativo de la Resolucion, al Delegado por Palawan, Sr. Abordo.

EL PRESIDENTE. Tien la palabra ael Delegadopor Palawan.

SPEECH OF MR. ABORDO AGAINST WOMAN SUFFRAGE

MR. ABORDO. Mr. President, and gentlemen of the convencion: The right of suffrage granted to male persons are universal y accepted throughout the civilized world from time immemoriae, and h s worked th advantage of mankind in the exercise of their political rights. Here in o r country, we have followed closely the same trend of world's policy for Mhe last three decades, and this privilege serves as a medium icf pupular expression in the selecting of our representatives in the government. During the Commonwealth government and therafter, I shall advocate stillfor the acontinuance of the system, founded, among other things, on the proposition that the time for woman suffrage has come.

Mr. President, I stand to speak against any move to provide in our Constitution the right of our women tovote, premised on three fundamental reasons, namely, that the demand for suffrage at present is not universal, that it would poison the minds of our youths not only at homes but also in the schools and in their future cal igns, and that politics,

2046

to my mind, is not the proper place for them to assert their individual rights.

As to my first proposituon, let it be said that in the solution of any question pendig in any organized government, it is the welfare of the majorityof the constituency that prevails and not the limited few. That is a principle consistently advocated by those favored by fortunes to be at the wheal of any government, and transmitted to us for a long time, now as the basis of sound and stable government. Concretely coming to the question of women suffrage, the question arises: Isthe clamor for enfranchisement of our women universal throughout the countty that needs immediate action on the part of t ose cal ed upon togrant this privilege? At this juncture, I sayin all candorand frankness that, considering this phase of the question dispassionately and laying asisde any spirit of particanship, it can be shown that far fras being a general sentiment of our women pupulace the cry for suffrage is nothing more than a resolution of the few intellectual women of thed ay.True, indeed that when this question came up to the suffrage com ittee for consideration, of which as a member, contrary to my expectation and belief, the spectacular, sight it produced was to me unsavory, pathetic and sorrowful, for right in the very capital of our country, it is found that in our women there is no such unanimityof opinion as to their avowed willingness to participate in expressing the pupular will in the poolls. As I listened attentively to the speeches of the women, pro and con, on the question of woman suffrage, I found that there esists a real demarcati nline between the conservatives and liberals, the former championing the veritable heritage of the past, the preservation of those sweet, delicate qualities of our women which find their beauty, glo-

[2047

ry and accomplishments in the personof Maria Clara, and the letter asserting for a new conquest even at the risk of their sublime virtues. In fine, the plain fact remains that a considerable number of our women in the City do not find politics wholesome, and h s considered from all angles the questi n as seductive and pernicious for the future welfare of the majority to the penorama of vast lands in the provinces, dot ed with thousand and thousands of houses where the couples live inperfect passes and complete harmony, where their only dream is to make the homes congenial and peace-loving, wanting absolutely the presence of discord and discontentment, and firm in their decision to make their sons and daughters worthy of their names and of our country(s future, it shall be a betrayal of trust and responsibility if I proceed wi thout making mention of those women in the provinces.

To begin with, I have every respect and admiration for our women, and unlike other who were victims of their own fate and disil usionment, I have no axe to grind. It is my living sentiment, if at present I consider the question of woman suffrage as untimely and would work haver not only on the standpoijt of political reform but more so on social evolution, I repeat, it is my lving sentiment to place our women, far from reproach and suspicion, on that pedestal of glory unspotted and pure, revered and adored byus all.

Having demonstrated that the circumstances in the City as to woman suffrage are combed with throns, and thick at that, to make tis stand impregnable, even against the systematic assault of women leaders, thus making the situation unfavorable to the suffragettes of the day, I shall take you to that land yonder the abodes of the great majority of our women today, and as we make a thore survey of their situation, par-

ticularly as to their customs, habits and inclinations, tell me if the cry for suffrage has found spontaneous echo and reaction on their part to make the issue clear and definite so as to give this convention no other alternative to act. Only the rabid pros and the blind will dare say in the affirmative when everything is said and done, and when the flames or smokes of battle shallhave been cleared away, there shall stand in the clear horizon the filipino women, acting in one solid compact in the form of towering monument, valiantly proclaiming no particular attachment and interest to women suffrage. On the other hand, I see them completely attached to their homes and der ones. I see them forming in a caravan of heroic mothers and would-be mothers in search for an honest living, working hand with their husbands and parents, only to make the homes, nomatter how humbel and insignificant they may be, congenial and peace-loving to all concerned. I see them still in the height of their enthusiasm, personally taking care of their childnre, giving the latter the benefits of their tender hands and motherly and sisterly care, determined as they are of making the children the future hopes of the only country KKK and that God has given us.Finally, I see them assemble together with their husbands and parents, forming in parleye, to consider the many intricate problems of the homes, and above all, the future happiness of the children, in whom they have pinned their hopes for a better future. Such is in affect are the multifarious problmes affecting the very homes of our Filipino woman who, because of their magnitude and importance, are daily brooding over them, mindful of the grave responsibility they owe to themselves, to their children and to the country. Question like the woman suffrage is to them of minor significance that to work for it and then exercise it would mean a

2049

complete divorce on things purely for the homes, the family and the children, the consequence of which would disintegrate and bring to ruination the hitherto homes of our people conducted in a way peculiarly ours in keeping as contrast to homes ot other people. My conclusion, therefore, is that our women the provinces view the issue with indifference and aloofness, others going to the extreme of registering their opposition in due form, and that at present they have yet plenty of other p patriotic services to accomplish and contribute which are decisive and urgent for the good of the country.

As to my second objection, I wish to be quoted that the education of the children depends essentially in how they are reared and brought up in their respective homes. There is where these children get the necessary training and experience preparatory to their being ushered into this world either to further their bamnk knowledge in some institution of learning, or else to find some lawful means of pursuit. Thier constant association with their parents, the training they get, and the existing environment fundamentally contribute to the future traits and idiosyncracies of the ouths, grounded onthe established creed that mothers are the agreat teachers of their children. The building of character in the children starts at home, and their future make-ups are fundamentally influenced by the inspiratuon and guidance of their mothers. Were we to permit our women the right fo suffrage, we shall be bringing to the Filipinos homes an evolution, which, among other things, would not only augur the coming of a rupture in the family homes but above all would mean the injection of politics in the minds of our childrn even at tender ages. Because of the frequent talks of politics in the homes, between the fshters and the mot er, and the many clashes encontered due to differnece of opinions in polities , it cannot be denied that in

[illegible] 2050

the homes there shall exist predominantly that pervading thought of politifd in the minis of our youths, thereby forming an idea as to what is in store for them in the future. Under this proposition of giving to women the right of suffrage, the mothers of today and of tomorrow,judging from our attahcment of our mothers, will automatically be sending out men or women pre-eminently politicians by traits, habits and idoiscyncracies, abandoining in the majority of cases other legitimate callings which are more honorable, more dignffied, and more sacred than an elective post which is flitting, themporary and changeable depending on the strike of thime wielded by public opin on and popular will. We shall ,in doing so, be crowding the country withthat influx of youths whose ultimate ends ofr modus vivendi is to enter the pulitical arena qhere many a victora and a vanquished were reduced financiliy to nothingness. We shall be solving only the political aspect of our country(s future, even forsaking those traditional characteristics which are assentially ours as a race to be proud of, to preserve, and to sentify always. But on top of this desire to enfranchise our women, you and I are equally responsible for the partial, if not total collapse of our economic problesm which, more than ever, need the immediate solution of evey living filipino.This we cannot be if from chilHhood we shall already be imparting things about politics to our children, That to make them change a c ourse of action thereafter would mean going against the spirit and nationalistic tendencies of you youths to do things as inculcated intotheir minds by no other man their guides, counsellors and helpers..--ther mothers.

Politics, as it is practised in our country, is not altogether inviing to our women. Personal issues which even effect the very honor and reputation not only of the candidates and the candidates' relatives but also those of their

leaders are the orders ot theday. Party and national issues are relegated to the wayside. All these go to show that, far from purifying the elections by reason of the intervention of our women in politifs, the same state of conditions would continually exist and prevail, and most probably would endanger the securityof our people, who, by temperament and character, would want our women stand sublime and highly honored rather than see the latter mercilessly atacked by unscrupulous persons in any political meetings. Thereis inmost instances no principle presented to the electorate during election time, and personal mud-slingings are the only joys and satisfaction of every hearer, without which no political meetings, with few exceptions, would ever marshall big audience.

Respecting ~~kkk~~ and aforing as I do the filipino woman, the pride of our race, whom I wold want them sit on that altar of peace, the home, and not in politics adored, cherished and respected by all, I cannot under the present circumstances to my regret, vote for any precept in the Constitution that we shall draft allowing women to exercise the right of suffrage.

Mr. President, moreover, I wish to make of record that the suffragettes of today are women belonging to certain Fedetation of women clubs all over the Philippines Islands. What I want to state at this time is that women in their own respective clubs have ~~kkkk~~ done things which are not at all conducive or proper to the carrying of election and on this matter, Mrs President, if really in the very circle of their own organization frauds have been committed, how much more, Mr. President will will they commit frauds whenthey go to the extreme of going to politics. On this proposition, Mr. President, I wish to cite you instances to prove that in the election of officers for the Federation of women's Club on Januaxy 26, 1939, we

found frauds have been committed and I would willingly cite them one by one: First, the creation of imaginary clubs; second, voting by proxy by persons not authorized to vote; third, other frauds, and fourth, issues, respecting religion, age, and others. All these charges, Mr. President stand unchallenged and have not been rectified up tothe present time and I hold that these charges are true. Furthermore, in the deliberation of this question, whether we should grant women the right of suffrage or not.....

MR. CONFESOR. Mr. President, will the gentleman yield to a question?

THE PRESIDENT. The gentleman may answer.

MR. ABORDO. Not until I am through.

MR. ABORDO. (Continuing)...In the issue of Sunday Tribune, first edition, January 27, 1929, we find the following story:

MANY FRAUDS, SAYS LEADERS

Mrs. Ventura calls Election Dirty; Mrs. De Veyra Answers "It's Sickening."

Mrs. ventura charges:

"Formerly I was in favor of woman suffrage in the Philippines! In fact I have been fighting for it consistently. But after the election held this noon by the Federation of Woman's Club, I have changed my mind. Frauds galore were committed by our op onents. Non-existent woman(s provincial clubs were created in order to produce more votes. By some trick of magician a crop of woman's coubs in the province of Leyte and Iloilo never heard from before sprang up with proxies for the winning candiates. It was the dirtiest election I have ever known, and it seems to me that to give our women to the right of suffrage will make our politics dirtier than what it already is."--Professor Maria Valdes Ventura, outstanding leader of Dr. Paz

M. Mendoza.

Mrs. De Veyra Replies:

"I have nothing to say. As soon as I hve appointed an election committee I left the conventional hall and went straight home to lie down and rst. It was sickening to see how the othe party was campaigning and re orting to all means to win the election. Instead of attending the convention and taking part in its deliberation, they were devoting their tim to electioneering. They even had a series of dinners and they held that they called "Banquets de avance" in one of the panciterias last night in which all those in their ticket delivered fiery speeches. We did nothing of the sort. I thought that women can not stoop to such methods in politics and even out-do the men. It was sickening." Mr. Sofia R. de Veyra, reelected president of the Federation of Women's Club.

Personalities, prejudices and religion are election issues

The two preceding statements embody the opposing views of the two factins in thef ederationof woman's clubs whose convention closed yesterday after one of he most bitterly contested elections ever held in the Philippines. It was an election in which personalities, as well as principles were discussed, and religion, it is understood, also played an important part.

From the opineing of the convention until its close there was silent but determin d fight for supremacy. One faction was bent on outstijg theother. Dr. Paz Mendoza was the standard bearer of the group that was fighting to gain ascendency over the faction headed by Mrs. Sofia R. de Veyra. As soon as the delegates registered their names and had been

given their credentials, Mrs. Isaac Barza, Mrs. Tomas Fornecier, and Mrs. Maria Valdez Ventura, the campaign managers for Dr. Mendoza, copied the names and addresses of all the delegates and, according to Mrs. De Veyra, conducted a house to house campaign.

The element of religion, it is said, was injected in the campaign. The three campaign managers of Dr. Mendoza are outstanding Protestant leaders, while Mrs. de Veyra, Miss Dwyer, Miss Macarseg and the others in the De Veyra ticket are outstanding Catholics. One side said that the Catholics should not be allowed to rule the Federation. The other side countered that the Protestants must not be given a chance to gain a foothold in the organisation.

Both parties allege that whispering campaign was conductee. One side pointed to the other as responsible for the "whispers." The age of the two candidates was also one of the issues. It was stated that the younger candidate should be given a chance to lead the Federation as she would infuse it with new blood. The other side maintained that the older candidate should be elected because she had more experience in running woman's clubs and she was more responsible and conservative in her views.

The election was held yesterday, with the result that the straight ticket of Mrs. De veyra won by a big margin. That was the beginning of th e end. The hullabaloo started and indications are that it will last for some time.

Mrs. Ventura says

Magician produced New Woman's Clubs

This is what Mrs. Valdez Ventura has to say on rhw election: "Frauds galore were committed by our op onents. None-existent women's provincial clubs were created in order to produce more votes for the opposing side. By some trick of an illusionist or a magician a crop of woman's clubs in

the provinces of Leyte and Iloilo, never heard from before, sprang up with proxies for the winning candidates. The radio and the telegraph were resorted to, and as the grating of credentials and records of the Federations are in the hands o of the Chair, we were helpless.

"I had the proxy of the Bulacan Cäubs, but the the constitution provdes that proxies must be given first to delegates who are residents of the province, suddenly, from the air, as it were, a delegate from Bulacan apperared and claimed the proxy. After the election, she confessed to me that she was neither a delegate nor was she from Bulacan, but that she was asked to claim the proxy by one of the opposing sides.

"I can cite many other frauds, but a few examples, I believe, are sufficient to show the ublic that the last election of the federationof woman clubs is the dirtiest that organization ever had. I am ashamed of it. That is why I am no longer in favor of woman's suffrage. With what I saw yesterday, I am convinced tht our women willmake our politics dirtier than what is now."

That is far as Mrs. Ventura should go last night. Now, let the other side be given at hearing. Here is what Mrs. de Veyra said:

"Mrs. Ventura, I am sure, cannot prove her statements. Everything has been done above board. I left the convention hall after I had appointed an election committee in which the other party was represented. I left the meeting because I could not stand it any longer. It was sickening to see how electioneering was being done. I even told Mrs. Barza I never thought women could go as far as men in their electioneering methods.

"I have nothing to say about this fraud accusation. All i canmy that we have refrained from indulging in tactics unworthy of women engaged in the service of the public not for any pecuniary gain. While theother party made a house-to-house campaign and gave dinnes and banquets, we gave nothing of the sort. We allowed the delegates to express their free will without influencing them in any way. I tell you, I never thought women can stoop to such methods in politics and even outdo the men. The whole affairs wad sickening indeed."

Mrs. De Veyra ended there.

The tribune January 29, 1939

Woman's War on; Charges are Renewed

Mrs. Ventura finds alleged Crédentials From Iliolo missing; Women alluded to, Reply.

"After spending more than two hours at the office of the Federation of women's C ub I failed to locate thepapers supporting the existence of a provincial women's dub in Iloilo," said Mrs. Maria Valdez-Ventura, one of the leaders of the defeated party in the election of officers of the federation when seen last night.

In the opinion of Mrs. Ventura, the result of th e election dependedn to a great extent on the 17 votes cast by Mrs. Nervas, niece of Mrs. De veyra, "supposedly representing a provincial women's club in Iloilo (Home provnce of Mrs. De Veyra, all of which were in favor of Mrs. De veyra. She said: "In my investigation, I could not find even the credentials for the Iloilo delegates among the crdentials handed over to me by the clerk. Wheni arrived at the office of the fiederation, I requested Mrs. Mardo, the clerk at the office , to show me the documents purporting the existence of the 17 Iloilo clubs.

After ransacking shelves and drawers, Mrs. Marco told me that they were possibly in the press. She left me wit the reason that she was going to the press to get the papers and show thm tome. Since the time she left until now she had not shown up."

It was along story, but this quotation in fufficient to show our prupose.

In the same XXM issue of the Tribune, we find the following about Mrs. De veyra.

"When seen last night, Mr. Sofia R. De Veyra, re-elected president of the Federation of Women Clubs, refused tomake any statement beyond that 'This sickening affair must be allowed to blow over as it does not good to to anybody and it hurts the interest of the federation for which we shc ld be willing to sacrifice everything in our powers. I shal begin to remaining silent."

Respecting and adoring as I do the filipino women, the pride of our race, whome I would want them sit on that altar of peace, the home, and not in politics adored, cherished and respected by all, I cannot, under the present circumstances, to my regret, vote for any precept in the Constitution that we shall draft allowing women to exericse the right of suffrage.

MR. BOCAR. Mr. President, for an observation, I want to make it of record and insert this constitutional precept presented by Delegate Abordo for purposes of record.

MR. GRAGEDA. I raise the point of orden.

MR. BOCAR. Mr. President, I want to insert in the record this constitutional precept presented by Delegate Abordo favoring woman suffrage, who has just spoken. This constitutional precept was submitted by Delegate Abordo to the effect of granting the right to vote to all citizens of the country irrespective of sexes the right of suffrage.

MR. ABORDO. I wish to state, for purposes of record, that that precept was presented long before this time and before this issue was discussed in the Suffrage Committee. As I said, Mr. President, in my speech, what I observed in the Suffrage Committee was to me pathetic, unsavory and sorrowful because right in the very capital of the Philippine Islands, women are not united, or that they are indifferent to this question. Moreover, Mr. President, after the filing of that constitutional precept, I want to go on record that I received instruction from my own district to the effect that I vote against woman suffrage; and it being the mandate of the sovereign people, and on that basis, I am in favor of the resolution.

SR. ALTAVAS. Sr. Presidente, el tiempo del orador ha expirado y pido que se le extiende a lo minutos mas para contestar las preguntas.

MR. PEREZ. I rise to a point of order. According to our rules, no Delegate can speak twice on the same subject on the same day.

EL PRESIDENTE. No.

MR. ABORDO. Mr. President, inasmuch as reference has been made with respect to my constitutional precept, I wish to go on record, Mr. President, that that precept was filled long before the discussion on the question of woman suffrage took place in the Suffrage Committee, and (I never thought) Mr. President, upon due investigation, and while the question was then pending before the Suffrage Committee, of which I am member, I made an effort to find the ways and means which will ultimately convince me that our women of today are by law entitled to the exercise of the right of suffrage. Contrary, Mr. President, to my expectation as I said, I found or unearthed things which I have just read before this Convention to prove that ou women themselves even within their own circles, within

their own clubs, went to the extent of committing frauds; and how much more, Mr. President, if we allow them our women the right of suffrage when their very honor, the pecuniary interest that goes with the position, are involved?

MR. CONFESOR. Mr. President, will the gentleman yield?

THE PRESIDENT. The gentleman may yield, if he so desires.

MR. ABORDO. Willingly.

MR. CONFESOR. When you filed that precept, have you read those quotations that you read to us tonight?

MR. ABORDO. As I said, not yet.

MR. CONFESOR. So that if you had read those quotations before the time you presented that precept, you would not have presented, would you?

MR. ABORDO. Absolutely, no.

MR. CLORIBEL. Mr. President, will the gentleman yield?

THE PRESIDENT. The gentleman may yield, if he so desires.

MR. ABORDO. Willingly.

MR. CLORIBEL. After you have changed your mind with regard to woman suffrage, did you withdraw your precept?

MR. ABORDO. What is the use of withdrawing a precept once it is submitted, and moreover, under the rules of the convention, there is no provision to show that any delegate has that right to withdraw any precept presented.

MR. CLORIBEL. Yes, but would it not appear to you anomalous, appearing on record that you are in conformity with woman suffrage.

MR. ABORDO. Absolutely not, because man may change mind provided the change of mined tends to the benefit of the whole and not a group.

SR. ALTAVAS. Ya ha expirado el tiempo del compañero.

SR. ABELLA. Pido que se le concedan diez minutos mas para contestar interpelaciones.

MR. BOCAR. Mr. President for an observations. I want to make it of record and insert this constitutional precept presented by Delegate Abordo for purpose of record.

LEVANTAMIENTO DE LA SESION

SR. ROMERO. Sr. Presidente, pido que se levante la sesión hasta mañana.

EL VICE PRESIDENTE. (Sr. Montinola). Si no hay objecion, se levanta la sesion hasta mañam.

Eran las 6:30 p. m.